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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
31 January 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Offshore Island Situation

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Tachens

Communist artillery on newly-captured Ichiang Island continued over the weekend to shell Nationalist positions on the Tachens. In addition, the Communists on 30 January launched their first air assault on the Tachens since 18 January, when Ichiang was invaded. [REDACTED] five TU-2 bombers, covered by eight MIG-15's, bombed and strafed Lower Tachen. "A large number of civilian buildings were destroyed," according to the Nationalist Defense Ministry. Other losses, if any, were not reported.

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Quemoy

The Taipei press reports the Communists fired 76 rounds of artillery at the Quemoy on 30 January. Although this is not considered to be heavy firing, it is the most extensive shelling of the Quemoy in several weeks.

Prospects for Cease-fire

Peiping has anticipated the resolution to be introduced in the UN today by New Zealand. An editorial in the People's Daily on 31 January restated Premier Chou En-lai's original intransigent stand on the possibility of a cease-fire and again accused the United States of plotting to intervene in China's internal affairs through the United Nations. The New Zealand proposal was categorically rejected.

The Soviet Union has also announced that it will introduce a resolution to the UN Security Council calling for the "evacuation from the islands in this area of all armed forces not controlled by the People's Republic of China" as the basis for a cease-fire. The USSR previously asked for an investigation by the UN of United States "aggression" against China but has not heretofore suggested the possibility of a cease-fire.

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